

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

This is a Divisional application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b), of application Serial No. 09/851,214, filed on May 08, 2001.

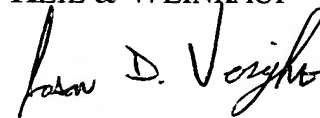
Claims 1 to 5 and 18 to 28 as set forth in Appendix IV of this paper are now pending in this case. Claims 6 to 17 have been canceled, Claims 1 to 5 have been amended, and Claims 18 to 28 have been added as indicated in Appendix III of this paper.

The claims have been amended to relate to the subject matter withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner in the parent application, and to avoid overlap with the claims in the grand parent case. Also, the claim language has been revised to better conform with U.S. formal requirements. Additionally, applicants have introduced new Claims 18 to 28 to further bring out some of the subsidiary features which are disclosed on page 3, indicated lines 29 to 35 (*new Claims 18 to 22*), page 3, indicated lines 37 to 43 (*new Claims 23 to 26*), and page 4, indicated lines 1 to 3 (*new Claims 27 and 28*), of the application. The specification has been amended in order to include a proper reference to the parent application. No new matter has been added. Favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 11.0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl.: THE SUBSTITUTE SECTION(S) OF THE SPECIFICATION (Appendix I)
THE CHANGE(S) IN THE SPECIFICATION (Appendix II)
THE LISTING OF CLAIMS (Appendix III)
THE AMENDED CLAIMS (Appendix IV)

HBK/BAS

A P P E N D I X I:

THE SUBSTITUTE SECTION(S) OF THE SPECIFICATION (clean version):

On page 1:

- After the title, ie. at indicated line 3, add the following new section:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

This is a Divisional application of Application Serial No. 09/851,214, filed on May 08, 2001 (pending), the entire disclosure of which is herewith incorporated by reference, which is a Divisional application of Application Serial No. 09/622,773, filed on August 23, 2000 (now US 6,297,394 B1), the entire disclosure of which is herewith incorporated by reference, which is a National Stage Application under 35 U.S.C. 371 based on International Application No. PCT/EP 99/01150, filed on February 23, 1999.

A P P E N D I X II:

THE CHANGE(S) IN THE SPECIFICATION (version with markings):

On page 1:

- After the title, ie. at indicated line 3, the following new section has been added:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

This is a Divisional application of Application Serial No. 09/851,214, filed on May 08, 2001 (pending), the entire disclosure of which is herewith incorporated by reference, which is a Divisional application of Application Serial No. 09/622,773, filed on August 23, 2000 (now US 6,297,394 B1), the entire disclosure of which is herewith incorporated by reference, which is a National Stage Application under 35 U.S.C. 371 based on International Application No. PCT/EP 99/01150, filed on February 23, 1999.

A P P E N D I X III:

THE LISTING OF CLAIMS (version with markings):

1. (currently amended) A catalytically effective [~~material useful as cata-
lyst, comprising~~] composition consisting of
 - (a) iron or a compound based on iron or mixtures thereof,
 - (b) from 0.001 to 0.3% by weight based on (a) of a promoter based on 2, 3, 4 or 5 elements selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silicon, zirconium, titanium and vanadium,
 - (c) from 0 to 0.3% by weight based on (a) of a compound based on an alkali and/or alkaline earth metal, and [~~also~~]
 - (d) from 0.001 to 1% by weight based on (a) of manganese.
2. (currently amended) [~~A material as claimed~~] The composition defined in claim 1, characterized by a BET surface area of from 3 to 20 m²/g, a total pore volume of from 0.05 to 0.2 mL/g, an average pore diameter of from 0.03 to 0.1 μ m and a 0.01 to 0.1 μ m pore volume fraction within [~~the~~] a range of from 50 to 70%.
3. (currently amended) [~~A material as claimed~~] The composition defined in [~~claim 1 or 2~~] claim 1, [~~obtainable~~] which is obtained by reduction with or without subsequent passivation of a magnetite.
4. (currently amended) [~~A material as claimed~~] The composition defined in [~~any of claims 1 to 3~~] claim 1, [~~wherefor a~~] wherein the promoter elements of constituent (b) [~~based on~~] are selected from aluminum, silicon and titanium [~~is used~~].
5. (currently amended) [~~A material as claimed~~] The composition defined in [~~any of claims 1 to 4~~] claim 1, [~~wherefor a promoter~~] wherein con-
stituent (c) is based on magnesium and/or calcium [~~is used~~].
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (b) comprises 3, 4 or 5 elements selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silicon, zirconium, titanium and vanadium.
19. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (b) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.2% by weight based on (a).
20. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (b) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.1% by weight based on (a).
21. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the promoter elements of constituent (b) comprise aluminum, silicon and titanium.
22. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the promoter elements of constituent (b) are aluminum, silicon and titanium.
23. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (c) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.2% by weight based on (a).
24. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (c) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.1% by weight based on (a).
25. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the alkali and alkali earth metal of constituent (b) is selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, cesium, magnesium and calcium.
26. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the alkali and alkali earth metal of constituent (b) is calcium and/or magnesium.

27. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (d) is present in an amount of from 0.001 to 0.3% by weight based on (a).
28. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (d) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.2% by weight based on (a).

A P P E N D I X IV:

THE AMENDED CLAIMS (clean version):

1. (currently amended) A catalytically effective composition consisting of
 - (a) iron or a compound based on iron or mixtures thereof,
 - (b) from 0.001 to 0.3% by weight based on (a) of a promoter based on 2, 3, 4 or 5 elements selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silicon, zirconium, titanium and vanadium,
 - (c) from 0 to 0.3% by weight based on (a) of a compound based on an alkali and/or alkaline earth metal, and
 - (d) from 0.001 to 1% by weight based on (a) of manganese.
2. (currently amended) The composition defined in claim 1, characterized by a BET surface area of from 3 to 20 m²/g, a total pore volume of from 0.05 to 0.2 mL/g, an average pore diameter of from 0.03 to 0.1 µm and a 0.01 to 0.1 µm pore volume fraction within a range of from 50 to 70%.
3. (currently amended) The composition defined in claim 1, which is obtained by reduction with or without subsequent passivation of a magnetite.
4. (currently amended) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the promoter elements of constituent (b) are selected from aluminum, silicon and titanium.
5. (currently amended) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (c) is based on magnesium and/or calcium.
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (b) comprises 3, 4 or 5 elements selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silicon, zirconium, titanium and vanadium.
19. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (b) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.2% by weight based on (a).
20. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (b) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.1% by weight based on (a).
21. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the promoter elements of constituent (b) comprise aluminum, silicon and titanium.
22. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the promoter elements of constituent (b) are aluminum, silicon and titanium.
23. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (c) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.2% by weight based on (a).
24. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (c) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.1% by weight based on (a).
25. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the alkali and alkali earth metal of constituent (b) is selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, cesium, magnesium and calcium.
26. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the alkali and alkali earth metal of constituent (b) is calcium and/or magnesium.
27. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (d) is present in an amount of from 0.001 to 0.3% by weight based on (a).

28. (new) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein constituent (d) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.2% by weight based on (a).